

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFor the years 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942Council Offices,
HORSFORTH.

April, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Horsforth Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to place before you my report on the health of the district for the four years 1939 to 1942. It is regretted that due to the abnormal conditions under which we have been working during these years which have placed upon us a great deal of additional work, the normal routine has been considerably interrupted and the preparation of my report inevitably delayed.

I am requested by the Minister of Health to confine my report to essential and urgent matters which have occurred during the years and in the interests of national security not to publish certain statistics and information. These details are, however, to be preserved in order that a report may be made at the termination of the war dealing more fully with the war period.

Despite many drastic changes which have been introduced into the life of the community, the general health of the district remains good, and I am pleased to be able to report that there has been no major outbreak of infectious disease.

As a natural result of the shortage of man-power and the increased industrial activity, unemployment has been reduced to negligible proportions; indeed a considerable number of women who would not normally have undertaken duties other than those of housekeeping are being employed in almost every branch of work.

STATISTICS

Area of the district in acres	2,700
Number of inhabited houses estimated end of 1942	4,269
Rateable value - 1942	£76,952
Product of 1d rate - 1942	£294

(F.T.O.)

<u>Live Births</u>		<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Legitimate	M	92	93	72	79
	F	74	75	89	72
	Total	166	168	161	151
Illegitimate	M	2	-	2	2
	F	6	2	3	4
	Total	8	2	5	6
Total Live Births		174	170	166	157
Birth rate per 1,000 population		14.2	14.8	13.2	12.36
<u>Still Births</u>					
Legitimate	M	5	2	1	4
	F	3	1	1	-
	Total	8	3	2	4
Illegitimate	M	-	1	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	1	1	-
Total Still Births		8	4	3	4
Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		43.95	23.0	17.7	24.8
<u>Deaths</u>					
	M	71	64	54	79
	F	89	91	80	73
	Total	160	155	134	152
Death rate per 1,000 population		13.1	13.5	10.6	11.9
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</u>					
Puerperal Sepsis		-	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		-	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes		-	-	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		-	-	5.71	-
Total		-	-	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		-	-	5.71	-
Death rate of infants under one year of age:-					
All infants per 1000 live births		45.7	46.5	46.5	57.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		48.2	47.0	47.9	59.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		-	-	-	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		20	22	17	14
"	" Measles(" ")	-	-	-	-
"	" Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	2	-
"	" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	-	-

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the years which requires special comment.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

(Part-time) S.G.Bedford, M.B., Ch.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

(Whole-time) L.Grimshaw, Cert.R.San.I. F.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent.

E.M.Birtwisle, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector from 1st October, 1940

J.Flitton, Clerical Assistant, serving with H.M.Forces
since July, 1940.

E.Morgan (Miss), Clerical Assistant from 12th Aug. 1940.

K.H.Smith (Miss), Junior Clerical Assistant since
1st September, 1941, now serving as nurse with the
British Red Cross Society from 22nd March, 1943.

L.Smith (Miss), Junior Clerical Assistant (temporary)
from 22nd March, 1943.

2. Laboratory facilities

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is undertaken by the West Riding County Council in their laboratory; these arrangements continue to be very helpful to your officers.

3. Ambulance facilities

A large proportion of the working population by virtue of a Leeds contributory scheme have a free ambulance service available to them to the Leeds hospitals. Necessitous persons can be removed at the expense of this Council.

In both these schemes a private ambulance company in Leeds provides the vehicles, and declines to deal with street accidents.

As a war-time measure, in urgent cases, use can be made of the West Riding County Council Civil Defence vehicles, and since they are quickly available they are in increasing demand. The same Civil Defence vehicles are available for the transport of maternity cases.

4. Nursing in the home

I have remarked above that many housewives are now undertaking work of various kinds with the consequence that the nursing of any members of the family who fall sick is presenting some difficulty and results in the use of hospital accommodation on an increasing scale. The Horsforth Nursing Association engages two nurses for the District and they render valuable help wherever possible.

5. Treatment Centres and Clinics

These are provided for Horsforth by the West Riding County Council who administer the Tuberculosis, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

(P. T. O.)

6. Hospitals

General cases are for the most part treated in the Leeds Voluntary hospitals. The recent enlargement of the West Riding County Institution at Otley to the Otley County Hospital is a welcome addition to the hospital facilities of the district.

Cases of infectious disease requiring Isolation Hospital accommodation are treated at the Wharfedale Union Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital at Menston.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The supply of water from the Council's own waterworks continued to be of a high bacteriological standard and to be sufficient for the needs of the District, although at the close of 1942 concern was felt as the continued reduced rainfall was having its effect not only on the yield of water from the surface gathering grounds but also on the two boreholes. In addition, during the last five months of 1942 constructional work on an area of the gathering grounds further depleted the supply. Arrangements exist for the purchase of water in bulk from Leeds Corporation should circumstances necessitate this.

Information regarding Housing, Food Inspection and Public Cleansing is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles and Whooping Cough were added to the list of notifiable infectious diseases by Regulations made by the Minister of Health dated 23rd October, 1939; no other additions have been made. Notifications received during the four years are summarised as follows:-

Disease	Notifications				Treated in Hospital				Deaths			
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942
Smallpox												
Scarlet Fever	18	19	20	56	17	12	13	51				
Diphtheria	8	3	5	19	8	3	5	19				
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		1				1						
Puerperal Pyrexia				2								
Pneumonia	15	14	36	8	1	1	2		8	3	8	7
Encephalitis Lethargica									1			
Cerebro- Spinal Fever		2	2	5		2	2	5	1		1	
Dysentery			2	1								
Erysipelas		5	5	4		1	1	1				
Measles	1	249	81	395		2	1					
Whooping Cough	1	28	139	71							2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum				1								

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

A great deal of work under this heading has been carried out during the period under review. The arrangements in this district which have been made in conjunction with the West Riding County Council are that a person wishing to have his child immunised against Diphtheria can have the necessary inoculations carried out free of charge either by his own medical attendant, or if the child is of school age or pre-school age, at the appropriate clinic.

At the close of 1942 it was estimated that of the children under 5 years 53.4%, and of the children between 5 and 15 years of age 74.0% had received a complete course of immunisation.

TYPHOID IMMUNISATION

On receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2230 this Council offered facilities for immunisation against organisms of the Typhoid group to residents, the nature of whose employment exposed them to special risk. The Civil Defence authorities offered immunisation free of charge to Civil Defence volunteers. Owing largely, no doubt, to the absence of cases of typhoid, there was not a great demand for the use of these facilities.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases and deaths from this disease during the four years are summarised as follows:-

Age Periods	NEW CASES												TOTAL NEW CASES	DEATHS												TOTAL DEATHS	
	RESPIRATORY						NON-RESPIRATORY							DEATHS													
	MALES			FEMALES			MALES			FEMALES				MALES			FEMALES										
1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942
0																											
1																											
5																											
15																											
25																											
35																											
45																											
55																											
65 upwds																											
TOTAL NEW CASES	6	9	5	6	7	6	2	6	2	1	2	6	2	1	3	4	2	5	3	1	1	5	3	2	5	3	2

Age Periods	NEW CASES												TOTAL NEW CASES	DEATHS												TOTAL DEATHS	
	RESPIRATORY						NON-RESPIRATORY							DEATHS													
	MALES			FEMALES			MALES			FEMALES				MALES			FEMALES										
1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942	1939	1940	1941	1942
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TOTAL NEW CASES	6	9	5	6	7	6	2	6	2	1	2	6	2	1	3	4	2	5	3	1	1	5	3	2	5	3	2

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths is shown below.

1939 - 1 : $3\frac{1}{2}$

1940 - 1 : $4\frac{1}{2}$

1941 - All deaths were of notified cases.

1942 - 1 : $5\frac{1}{2}$

CONCLUSION

I would take the opportunity of expressing my thanks for the valuable assistance I have received from the officers of the Council and for the helpful way in which the Committee have dealt with the various matters that have arisen during the period under review.

Yours faithfully,

S.G.BEDFORD

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

HEALTH
A 5 MAY 1944
C.R. 37

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

For the years 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Council Offices,
HORSFORTH.
April, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horsforth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your information my report covering the years 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942, and in so doing I would apologise that owing to many and various difficulties arising out of the War, the report has been so long delayed and is very considerably curtailed.

In my report for the year 1938, I mentioned that many normal duties had been interrupted by additional work involved in the organisation of Civil Defence and other services necessitated by the tense international situation which developed in September of that year. With the outbreak of War in 1939 this interruption was greatly increased and new factors were introduced by the necessary adaption of your sanitary services to a war time basis and, at the same time, experiencing difficulties owing to the call up of office staff and workmen. The staff problem became acute in 1940 and an additional Sanitary Inspector and additional female clerk were appointed.

The Minister of Health has suggested that war time Annual Reports should be in the nature of interim reports only, in view of the increased pressure of work, the need for economising in paper and as in the interests of national security certain statistics and information should not be published.

HOUSING.

Your housing programme for dealing with insanitary property and rehousing of displaced persons in Council owned houses has been brought to a standstill by the restrictions on building operations, and the necessity of conserving existing accommodation. Under these circumstances houses are still being occupied which in normal circumstances would have been dealt with under the Housing Acts. The persons who are in occupation are in many instances having to put up with unsatisfactory conditions which we have endeavoured to alleviate by measures of temporary repair.

I am pleased to note that details are already being worked out for the building of houses immediately after the war but owing to the large number of new houses necessary to complete our programme it is feared that it will be a considerable time before it is completed.

Where it has been necessary to take action to secure repairs to houses, the nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 have been used, and details are recorded under that heading.

Overcrowding.

A number of cases of overcrowding have come to our notice. Where possible, these have been dealt with by some of the occupants securing alternative accommodation but certain cases have presented special difficulties, in view of the general housing shortage.

P.T.O.

NUISANCES.

Work under this heading is summarised as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	1939	1940	1941	1942
Nuisances found during the year	411	315	353	325
Nuisances in hand from previous year	8	3	4	2
Total needing abatement	419	318	357	327
Abated during the year	416	314	355	318
Outstanding at close of year	3	4	2	9
Inspections made for nuisances	446	396	432	495
Informal notices served	128	45	75	72
Informal notices complied with	111	43	70	68
Statutory notices served	9	-	-	1
Statutory notices complied with	4	5	-	1
Legal proceedings	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING.1. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Collection. This service has been very much affected by the duty laid on the Council by the Ministry of Supply of reclaiming and salvaging numerous materials which are found amongst house refuse.

At the outset, it was obvious that the existing vehicles were inadequate to allow of the keeping separate of the various materials and the two motor refuse collectors were each fitted with a two-wheeled trailer. In these trailers, paper, tins and other metals, rags, bones, glass jars and bottles and rubber, are, as far as possible, kept separate during collection, refuse only being loaded into the motor vehicle. The handling of these materials has considerably retarded the work of collection which is also adversely affected by the labour position, (only one of the peace time staff of collectors remain in our service) and it has not been possible to maintain a weekly collection.

In February, 1940, the old Albion motor vehicle was replaced by a Bedford with an Eagle Refuse Collection Body.

Disposal. Owing to the operation of the salvage scheme, and to a marked drop in the cinder content, the refuse delivered at the Refuse Destructor had only a very low calorific value and at times great difficulty was experienced in maintaining combustion. At the end of 1941 it was found impossible to continue incineration of refuse and resort had to be made to controlled tipping. Hill Top Quarry has been utilized for this purpose and will in some few months be filled up and after replacement of the barings be ready for use as agricultural land.

Salvage. As stated above, endeavour is made during refuse collection to keep separate materials which are to be salvaged but despite this an amount has to be sorted out at the point of disposal.

Salvaged paper is delivered at the Paper Salvage Depot - Roger's Yard, New Road Side, where it is baled by a hand operated press and then collected by the Waste Paper merchants.

Tins and other metals, rags, bones, glass jars and bottles, rubber etc. are dealt with at the Refuse Destructor Works, the tins being baled in a hydraulic press and the other materials sorted into their various categories prior to sale to merchants.

On 5th November 1941, the Minister of Supply directed the Council to institute a separate collection of kitchen waste and to deliver the material collected to the Concentrator Plant in Leeds. Communal bins have been provided throughout the district and these are emptied each week and the material delivered to Leeds. In return the stock keepers in Horsforth are entitled to received from Leeds an equivalent amount of concentrated food. This concentrate is brought back by our vehicle on the return journey and sold to applicants.

The value of salvage recovered is set out below:-

	1939			1940			1941			1942		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ferrous Metals	1	3	5	108	7	-	75	9	-	152	3	-
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	5	10	53	4	8	6	-	3	5	3	-
Textiles		8	-	9	-	6	4	15	-	24	12	-
Bottles & Jars	1	13	5	12	4	7	7	15	-	5	19	-
Waste Paper	10	-	-	373	4	-	445	18	6	752	5	-
Bones	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	6	4	6	5	-
Kitchen Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117	10	-
Rubber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-
Total	£14	10	8	558	2	10	545	4	1	1068	2	-

2. Street Cleansing.

This service has been carried on as well as conditions have permitted. Street sweeping has been affected by the utilizing of labour on refuse collection in times of difficulty in that service, and by the advanced age of the men employed. Every effort has been made to keep the streets clean but in the periods following heavy gritting during the winter and the fall of the leaves during the autumn, it has not always been possible to maintain our usual standard. The work of gulley cleansing has similarly been affected by the employment of the horse and driver on refuse collection work with a consequent lengthening of the period between cleansing.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

Meat.

The usual routine inspection of meat in slaughterhouses was continued during 1939 but in January 1940 the Minister of Food made the Live Stock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order 1940 which had the effect of restricting the slaughter of animals for human consumption to certain slaughterhouses in the larger towns. The meat supplies for Horsforth are derived from the Public Abattoir at Leeds and accordingly the local slaughterhouses are only used for the slaughter of pigs for consumption by the owners or for emergency slaughter. Notification of slaughter is made to me in these cases under the provision of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. The licences granted under the Food and Drugs Act 1938,

to use premises as slaughterhouses have been renewed annually so as to encourage the use of slaughterhouses on the occasions mentioned above.

The Horsforth Butchers' Association have a distribution centre in the town, where the meat is allocated to the respective butchers. This centre receives general supervision and we are given immediate notice from a representative of the Association if any of the allocation is not up to standard.

Milk.

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Order has been continued, but owing to restrictions on building operations the general policy of reconstructing cowsheds has had to be postponed for the duration of the War, but in two cases the works necessary to bring the buildings up to the required standards for the production of Accredited Milk were carried out and the West Riding County Council issued the necessary licences. At another farm the premises were being altered at the close of 1942 with a view to the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. In view of the national campaign to produce the maximum amount of milk, a great deal of work has been done to ensure that the milk produced is of a high quality and routine bacteriological sampling and visits to producers have been carried out. The evidence of these samples and the observations at the farms have shown that despite the many difficulties encountered a good standard is being maintained. At the inception of the National Milk Testing Scheme, advantage was taken of the offer of co-operation with the Advisory Dairy Bacteriologist and the Department of Agriculture at Leeds University and as a result frequent samples are taken from all producers and submitted to the Resazurin Test. The results of these samples have confirmed the maintenance of a good standard.

Difficulties arose in connection with milk supplied by wholesale dairies to certain retailers in this district being of a very poor quality. On investigation it was found that this milk was being collected from farms many miles away and subjected to some form of heat-treatment prior to delivery to the wholesalers, and consequently was two to three days old before it was consumed locally. It was also found that more milk was being sent out of the district by wholesale producers than was being imported to meet the needs of retailers and the Ministry of Food were asked to assist in improving the standard of milk by arranging for locally produced milk to be supplied to retailers in lieu of that brought in by wholesalers, which arrangement would result in a great saving of manpower and petrol.

Arrangements were completed during 1942 for one of the retailers who has previously been dependent on imported milk to receive his supply from a local producer of accredited milk who had in the past been sending milk out of the district. It is hoped that the improvement which has been evident from this change will encourage the Ministry to extend these arrangements in the near future.

Routine sampling of milk under the Food and Drugs Act was continued and in one case proceedings instituted for the sale of milk with added water. A summons was served on both the retailer and producer but at the hearing the guilt was placed on the farmer who was fined £10 and ordered to pay the costs of the retailer and the prosecution, the case against the retailer being dismissed.

In 1939 three retailers had licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, four farmers had licences to produce Accredited Milk and one retailer had a licence to sell Pasteurised Milk; at the close of 1942, only one retailer was licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, three farmers to produce Accredited Milk and one retailer to sell Pasteurised Milk.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Routine advisory work and baiting was carried out where necessary. No major infestations were found during the period.

FACTORIES, BAKEHOUSES AND SHOPS.

Routine inspections of these premises were carried out, and in general the provisions of the respective controlling statutes were found to be complied with. Particular attention was paid to those premises dealing with foodstuffs.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There has been no change in the position with regard to the provision of public conveniences and I would again draw your attention to the general lack of facilities in the Township, and trust that your post-war plans will provide for the extension of this service.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One application was received for a licence to use land as a site for moveable dwellings, and this was granted. The site was only in use for a few months and is now vacated.

A further application was received for the transfer of a licence to the new occupier of land included in an existing licence, and this was granted.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I again tender my sincere appreciation of the continued confidence of the Health Committee and for the helpful co-operation of the officers and staff which has been given to me so readily.

Yours faithfully,

L. GRIMSHAW. Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

